



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Engineers: Local dam has high hazard potential

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

Although Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara said the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission says the French Landing Dam is “operating as designed and in good working order,” a study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers doesn’t agree.

Last Thursday, after two dams in Midland County failed and flooded a large area, Supervisor McNamara said he knew somebody would be asking about French Landing Dam in Van Buren Township.

He said he understands the Midland County dams weakened when they stopped taking down the water every year. He said the freshwater mussel get hurt if they take the water level down.

And, he said, he understands the dams were ready to go anyway.

Van Buren Township had considered taking down the water level of Belleville Lake last year for lakeside residents to repair docks and seawalls, but then decided not to do so.

He said every year Eagle Creek, which runs the hydropower dam for owner Van Buren Township, does a safety examination and gives the results to FERC.

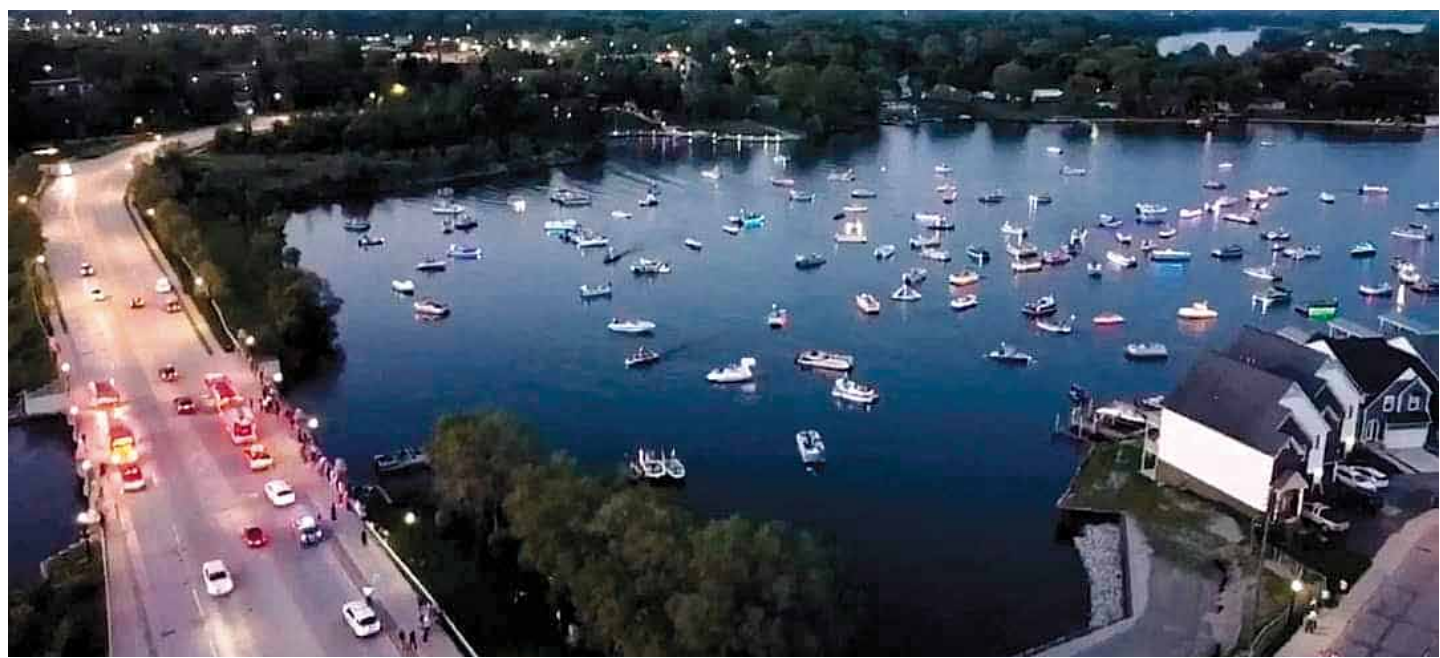
McNamara said starting in 2019, Van Buren Township and Eagle Creek began doing things to maintain the dam. Last year they did three projects, including a study of the embankments.

He said they will be doing nine different things through 2021.

“We need that lake,” McNamara said, referring to Belleville Lake. The lake was formed with the dam across the Huron River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a National Inventory of Dams in 2018 and reported that of the 14 total dams

(continued on page 3)



Belleville Lake boaters present lighted boat parade

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

A lighted boat parade Sunday night, filled with music and tributes to first responders, delighted the Belleville community.

One woman, who lives in a condo on North Liberty Street in the city of Belleville, said she had gone to bed and heard more lake noise than usual on Belleville Lake. She said that hearing noise is not unusual, but this was something different.

She got up and threw open her doorwall, “And what to my wondering eyes should appear...It was spectacular.” It was more than 200 lighted boats on the lake in a parade next to her home.

This was the work of Chris Donley of Van Buren Township who likes to organize boat events. In the past he has organized Sand Bar parties for the Air Show, always with a purpose. The events have earned money for Wounded Warriors, Cancer Society, and one year earned \$4,500 for the local Boys and Girls Club.

Sunday’s event was to honor the first responders in this fight against coronavirus. Donley said this is the first lighted boat parade on Belleville Lake in his memory.

He said he and others had put together small pontoon boat parades on Belleville Lake to celebrate the birthdays of friends during the coronavirus quarantine. People were experiencing difficult times and he wanted to do something.

About two weeks ago, he noticed that the weather was going to be good over Memorial Day weekend, so he thought about having a boat parade to honor first responders during the daytime.

But, he realized the lake was busy during the daytime. How about the first-ever lighted boat parade at night?

He put his idea out over social media and hoped he could get maybe 60 boats. When more than 200 turned up, he was absolutely blown away, he said.

“This boating community always responds,” Donley said on Monday. “They step up, get involved and never cease to amaze me.”

“If you build it, they will come,” Donley said.

And they just came, he said.

Donley said in planning the event he called the police and fire departments of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter and they all supported the event.

Fire trucks, police cars and EMTs, with lights flashing, lined the Belleville Bridge with sirens blaring when the boats paraded by.

“They were waving at us and honking their horns,” he said. “We held up ‘Thank

you for your service’ signs.”

Derek Rafferty volunteered a DJ pre-party from the lakeside deck in front of his home on North Liberty Street near the bridge. Rafferty does a virtual Facebook party every Saturday. He played music for an hour and a half until Donley gave three airhorn blasts as a signal to start the parade.

The boats headed east to the area of Sandy’s Marina to line up for the parade and then came west as a parade.

Donley said people flashed their porch lights off and on as the parade went by and they used flashlights to signal the boats.

With Donley’s boat leading the parade, they went under the Belleville Bridge past the sandbar and to the west, then back to Mission Pointe and past Donley’s home on West Huron River Drive and, “We kept the loop going.”

It took two and a half hours for the parade, he said, and they never made it all the way back to Sandy’s Marina, turning back at the powerlines.

Donley said at Justin Juriga’s house Juriga had a flag blowing in the wind projected on his house and Donley played, “Proud to Be an American.” Some boat owners had arranged Christmas lights in the forms of flags and other had lighted patterns of flags they rolled out.

At about 11:30 p.m. it all ended and everyone went home to rest.

“I think this is going to be an annual event,” Donley said.

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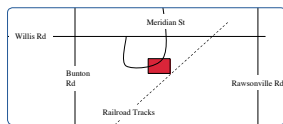
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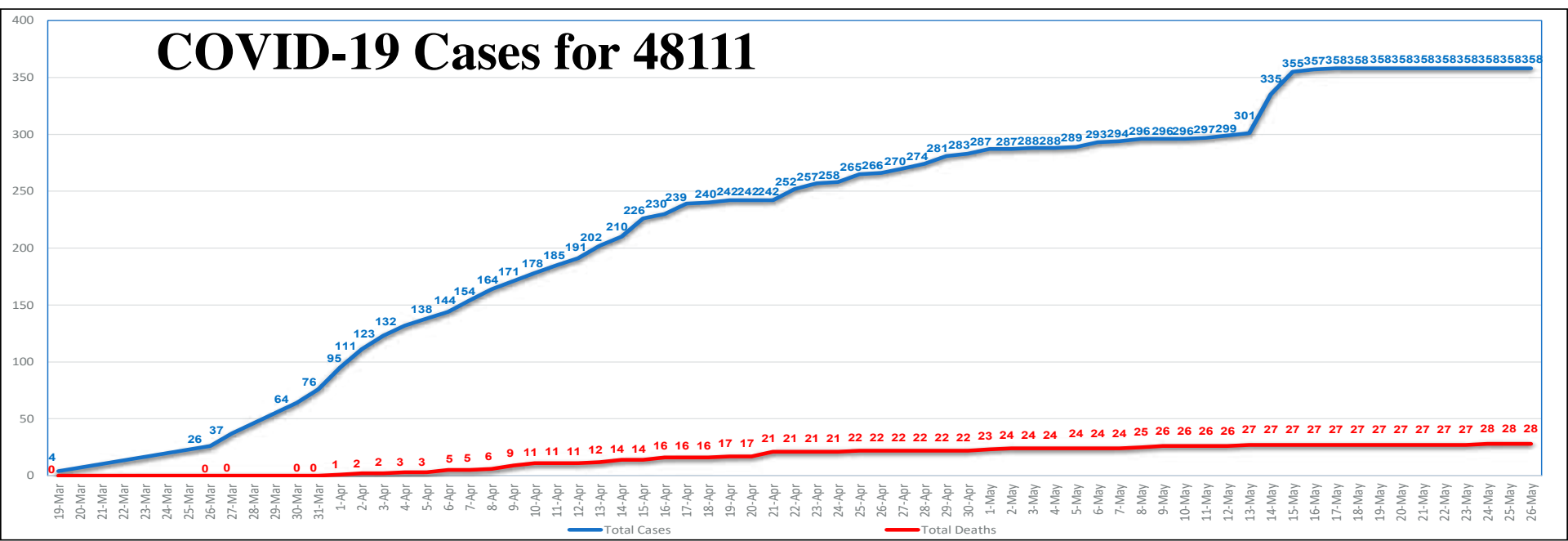
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SECOND FRONT PAGE



Numbers by Wayne County Health Department; chart by James Otzman.

The COVID-19 numbers from the Wayne County Health Department for this area started with just “Belleville” rates and around the first of April started breaking them into Belleville, Van Buren Township, and Sumpter Township. The number designated “Belleville” has consistently been the highest and rising. Many people believe the total for 48111, as shown above, is the most accurate for the situation in the tri-community, since what’s on a driver’s license may or may not be the most accurate designation of residence. Also, the “confirmed” cases listed are only the ones that have been tested.

Dam

(continued from page 1)

in Wayne County, MI, 100% had high hazard potential.

The average age of the Wayne County dams was 73. Ninety-three percent of the dams were regulated by the state and seven percent were regulated by a federal agency, including French Landing. Seven percent were dams with hydropower.

On the Army Corps of Engineers report it said the French Landing Dam was completed in 1924 and now has a high hazard potential. The 2018 report was updated through January 2020.

“High hazard potential” classification, the top danger criteria, means loss of human life is likely if the dam fails, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

French Landing was also categorized as being in unsatisfactory condition, along with 18 other Michigan dams.

The report said the last inspection date was July 27, 2017 and the data was provided to the report on Aug. 5, 2018.

Last May after heavy rainfall, some residents of Huron Township voiced concern about the French Landing Dam in Van Buren Township, according to the *Huron Hub*. The Huron Township Department of Public Safety posted on its Facebook page that the dam was at a high flow-alert level but is not in danger of failing.

“Due to recent rain, the French Landing Dam is at the ‘High Flow’ alert level. This means flooding is occurring on the river system but there is no apparent threat to the integrity of the dam. At this time, the dam is not in danger of failing,” the department



French Landing Dam courtesy of Google Earth © 2020 Google

said a year ago.

“We will provide updates should the alert level be upgraded. All residences in the affected zone have been notified.”

According to the department, four homes in Huron Township have been specifically identified as homes that could be impacted by a failure at the dam.

“A protocol and emergency action plan is in place specifically for issues and emergencies relating to the French Landing Dam,” the department said in a statement on May 2, 2019.

“If there is an emergency threat to the French Landing Dam, Huron Township officers will respond directly to the affected homes to notify residents. We have very recently made contact at the affected residences and will once again make sure they are aware of the emergency action plan in an effort to make them feel safe and secure,” police said last year.

If the French Landing Dam breached, much of the 25,000 acre-feet of water being held there from the Huron River would flood downstream through the

Lower Huron Metropark and into New Boston, which is in Huron Township, heading toward Lake Erie.

According to MLive, the National Weather Service reported a crest of 15.95 feet in the Huron River in Ann Arbor around noon on May 19, just half an inch shy of the river’s official minor flood stage. Since rainfall began May 17, the area received just over 2 inches of rain, according to Ann Arbor city meters at Barton Pond.

OPINIONS

Editorial

School Board lays off 14 teachers as budget tumbles

At Tuesday's meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, the board voted to lay off 14 teachers as of June 30 in the first round of cutbacks. There will probably be more to come in the future as the district learns how deep the state cuts to the foundation allowance per student will be.

The teachers were chosen first by evaluation and other reasons and then by seniority. They are: Katelyn Tatom, Melissa Hiuser, Jaclynn Behrendt, Laura Fleming, Amanda Mitchell, Tania Owen, Tiffany Kelly, Larry Koch, Jawana Edwards, Dave Rowell, Michael Schwartz, Mark Scarbrough, Shanna Johnson, and Jennifer Bare.

At the high school the drama and choir programs are discontinued and at the middle school the Spanish class was cut.

School Supt. Kudlak said they actually decided to lay off 23.5 teachers, but ended up with 14 when they took retirements and resignations into account.

The district is trying to put together a budget to be approved by the board next month, but it won't know how deep the cuts from the state will be until September or October. It's a guessing game and Van Buren is with every district in the nation trying to deal with the cuts brought by COVID-19.

And, it was pointed out the district could lose 500 or 1,000 students this fall, cutting the budget even further. These are dire times for school districts everywhere.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

A Van Buren Township woman said her husband has been buried at Hillside Cemetery for 28 years and this is the first year the groundskeeping was so horrible.

She said it looks like somebody cut the front side, so it looks good from the street, and around the veterans' graves, but the rest hasn't been cut.

She said she went there for Memorial Day and the grass is about 18 inches tall and the city should be ashamed.

"It's horrible, nasty-looking," she said.

A woman from Milan called to say loved ones are buried there and the conditions are despicable and there's no excuse. Both say no one has called them back when they try to reach the city.

Marie Krouse of Van Buren Township and her crew of volunteers recently tended to all the flags on veterans' graves in the township's cemeteries, as they usually do, and then went over to Belleville's Hillside Cemetery and placed flags on the veterans' graves there.

The city was planning to set a time for volunteers to place the flags sometime after Memorial Day, so Marie and crew made sure the veterans had their flags before the holiday held in their honor. She said it took about eight hours to do Hillside and Pete Pitzen provided the flags and they were glad to do it.

Thank you, Marie and crew, for your tireless efforts. Marie's husband is a past commander of the Belleville VFW Post and she often takes a leading role in post activities. But, she's always watching out for veterans' graves and makes sure the flags are in place to honor them.

The 34th District Court has gone online with Zoom for its court sessions and then the

...By Rosemary K. Oztzman



sessions are being put on YouTube briefly. If you go on the court's website, it now has a new section called "online courthouse."

Apparently, this began May 15 after the Michigan Supreme Court said courts have to be available to the public. So far, I've seen some misdemeanor pre-trials, and felony probable-cause conferences, but no bench or jury trials. They'll be working out the details for trials at the court in the future.

Chris Donley, who put together Sunday's lighted boat parade on Belleville Lake, was delighted with the turnout – an estimated 200 boats or more.

He was telling me how the boat owners step up and join in for worthy causes and joined in on Sunday, as well, when they were honoring first responders.

"I just love this town," Donley said, stopping to point out he knows he is plagiarizing Craig Atchinson who uses that phrase in this television advertising for the local Ford dealership.

I've been going to a lot of Zoom meetings of local boards and commissions and it's interesting to see the backgrounds at each home. Some are in kitchens, others in the library, others put themselves in front of fake backgrounds, like beaches or city flags. If they are in front of a fake background, when they move their heads, some of their heads get cut off. Fascinating to watch.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Van Buren Township Downtown Development

Authority, secretary Chris Brown was having trouble with his audio, so he left to get some earbuds. That's when other members of the DDA started looking at the booklined wall behind where Chris was sitting. "Is that a picture of Winston Churchill?" one asked. Another thought it was and was quite amazed, for some reason. When Chris came back, he was asked if that was Winston Churchill and he said it was and that was that.

These zoom meetings are a blast. At the school board meeting later that night, one board member during the meeting was walking around her house carrying her cell phone or computer or whatever she was using. The background changed as she moved around and finally alighted in her regular place.

Then, there are people who keep freezing on the screen and can't talk, or vote, and sometimes black right out. Sometimes a dog will bark or you can hear a television set in the background with people laughing.

One city council meeting showed a councilwoman upsidedown.

I can hardly wait until we can get back to regular meetings again where we can see each other. Of course, everyone will probably have masks on and I won't be able to hear what they're saying.





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Letters

St. Vincent de Paul bin to be removed

To the editor:

I am saddened to announce that the St. Vincent de Paul collection bin, located at the rear of St. Anthony's Church property, will soon be removed. The reason for this is due to a thoughtless few, who have begun using it as a means to discard broken or otherwise unwanted items.

The bin was designed to accept clothing and shoes for the poor. Due to the lockdown, the St. Vincent de Paul Society has not been coming to empty the bin, fearing that those who sort through the donated items may contract the coronavirus.

Once the bin was full, some started piling up bagged clothing around the bin. When it rained, most of this clothing was rendered useless and had to be hauled to the dump, along with all the other trashed items, ranging from broken shelving, furniture, toys, lamps, pottery, even to copy machines.

What has really irked me these past weeks, though, were those individuals who raced their cars to the back of our property, dumped their trash, and then made a fast get-away. If nothing else, their actions proved they knew all-too-well what they were doing was wrong, but didn't want to take the time or pay the price to dispose of their garbage themselves. Sad ... as if we needed here in Belleville yet another example of how the selfish and uncaring few can ruin a good, charitable convenience for the many.

I want to thank all those good people in our community who have brought clothing and shoes over the years to be donated to the less-fortunate. Yours was truly a Christian service which demonstrated your love of neighbor. I am certain your gracious gifts were appreciated by those who ultimately benefited from them.

Wishing all in our community God's blessings of good health and well-being,
Fr. John Kiselica
Pastor, St. Anthony's Catholic Church
Belleville

Area residents have peaceful place to enjoy

To the editor:

I loved the front-page picture of the redbuds this week at Lower Huron. I went to see them a couple of times and sat on my dad's bench at Giblin's Grove to reminisce.

Last week there were so many people bike riding, walking, and jogging on the bike path. It warms my heart that area residents have a peaceful place to enjoy in this stressful time.

Elaine Giblin-Gutierrez
Van Buren Township

I've been furloughed as museum director

May 15

Hey Belleville Area Historical Society Board Members and Friends:

I'm sad to tell you that I have been furloughed for up to four months, hopefully not more. Today is my last day at the township until further notice. I will be going in tomorrow or Monday [to] pick up some personal items, forward the phone and email to the township, and tie up some loose ends.

During this time I am not allowed to work, therefore, the fun virtual museum tours and exhibit I was hoping to do is not going to happen. I'm so bummed for our Suffrage exhibit.

Charity [Fielder] and Tom [Fielder] are in charge while I'm gone, kids, so listen to them LOL. I am going to miss everyone so much. I was hoping I'd be back a few days a week to film Virtual Traveling Trunk shows, but it was not to be. Stay tuned. I'll update you as I know more. Make sure you flood the township with calls and requests so they see how essential I am! Kidding! Ha ha!

I'm sure I'll secretly be working on things so feel free to contact me whenever you'd like. Shh.

If you would like to reach me as great friends who love the BAM – this is my personal email address. Feel free to forward this on to anyone you think may need to know.

Stay safe and healthy everyone!
XOXO,
Katie Dallos, Director
Belleville Area Museum
katedallos@yahoo.com

Strawberry Festival 2020 is canceled

To the editor:

The Belleville National Strawberry Festival scheduled for Father's Day weekend, June 19, 20, 21, has been canceled due to the COVID-19 virus. Our decision was based on the safety of the citizens of Belleville, our vendors, crafters, and attendees.

See everyone in 2021. Stay safe and remember to social distance!

Belleville National Strawberry Board

Birthdays

May 28 – Dave Merry
May 29 – Tina Steger, Jo Gardner, Scott Martin
May 30 – Wendy Marecle
June 1 – Nathan Millard
June 3 – Shawnee Lawson
June 4 – John Juriga, Mark Rosenthal
June 8 – Danica Broome
June 9 – Jeff Atwood

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More Letters

Vote for John Day for district judge on Aug. 4

To the editor:

While most of us have been more focused on face masks, how far "6 feet apart" really is, and which restaurants have take-out services – there are people who have filed for various elected positions in our community.

One of those positions is for a seat on the 34th District Court located in Romulus. The 34th District Court serves the following communities: Belleville, Van Buren Township, Sumpter Township, Romulus, and Huron Township.

One of the candidates for that judicial seat is John Day. John graduated from Belleville High School in 1973, earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with High Honors in 1977 from Michigan State University, earned his Juris Doctorate *cum laude* from the University of Detroit Law School in 1980 and was admitted to the bar in December of 1980.

John has practiced law for 40 years at every level of the court system in the state of Michigan, including three successful cases at the Michigan Supreme Court. During his career, John has been the attorney for the City of Belleville, on three occasions, totaling approximately 15 years. He represented the Belleville DDA for ten years, successfully negotiating for the Victoria Commons and Harbor Pointe projects and the acquisition of the Doane property. During his tenure with the City of Belleville, John was a member of the committee that created the current City Charter. John, along with elected officials and lawyers from Belleville, VBT, and Sumpter Township negotiated the District Library Agreement in 2010. He is also the attorney representing the Belleville Area District Library representing not just the BADL, but also negotiating with Sumpter Township for the creation of the BADL Media Center.

On a personal note. I have known John Day for approximately 40 years. I worked closely with John during my tenure as Mayor Pro-Tem in (2007-2011) to negotiate and pass the District Library Agreement in 2010. I have found John to be an honest, reliable person (and attorney) who has exemplified himself as a true "hometown" guy. I feel he will be an asset to the 34th District Court as I believe he not only understands the law, but will also fulfill the duties of judge in a responsible and fair manner.

The Primary Election for this Judicial seat on the 34th District Court is on Aug. 4 – just a little over two months away! If you are not registered to vote, please get registered. When you DO vote on Aug. 4, please vote for John Day.

Sincerely,
Rick Dawson
Vietnam Veteran
VFW Life Member
Belleville

Belleville Garden Club plant event set May 30

To the editor:

Because of the Governor's order, various plant-related events have been cancelled, but true gardeners are not willing to lose an entire season.

Each May, the Belleville Garden Club held a plant exchange and give-away at the library. The Western Wayne County Master Gardeners presented a program and arranged for the sale of plants that are not widely available.

Because of the Governor's order, both of these events lost their place. The Romulus Garden Club stepped into the breach and arranged for the use of the parking lot at the DPW, 12660 Wayne Rd., Romulus.

The date is Saturday, May 30, from 10 a.m. until noon.

We will have native plants from Wildtype Nursery, a specialty store in Mason that

has a wide reputation for helping to save endangered species. There will be heirloom tomatoes and other vegetable plants locally grown.

Tentatively, a representative of the South East Michigan Butterfly Club will be available to confirm the correct purchases for various butterflies and will have cages available for sale.

There will be a sale of garden-related items. There is a lot of space for social distancing. Rules about masks will be in place.

Cash only.

We are now trying to get the word out. If you could please give us a little help in that we would be most appreciative. I am not a member of any of the groups, but am encouraged by the dedication of a few people who want to keep gardening growing.

One person has driven to Gaylord to get some of the special plants/trees and is

intending to go to Mason for the pickup of those plants. And, the cooperation between the groups is a pleasure to see.

Kathleen Walsh
Van Buren Township

Isaac Johnson, Hannah Walker named to Dean's List at Alma College

Alma College has named Isaac Jackson and Hannah Walker, both of Belleville, to the 2020 Dean's List for the winter term.

Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits, at least eight of which are evaluative grades, are named to the Dean's List.

Isaac Jackson, a first-year student from Belleville, is a graduate of Milan High School.

Hannah Walker, a junior from Belleville, is a graduate of Lincoln Senior High School.

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Register Book Package	\$140.00
Total	\$7,125.00
Same Day Service	\$6,630.00

Funeral Service <i>with Cremation to Follow</i>	
Service Charge	\$4,890.00
Ceremonial Rental Casket	\$1,095.00
Register Book Package	\$140.00
Crematory	\$180.00
Cremation Authorization	\$75.00
Total	\$6,380.00
Same Day Service	\$5,885.00

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Obituaries



Ralph Alvin Bird

RALPH ALVIN BIRD

(February 29, 1924 – May 19, 2020)

Ralph Alvin Bird, age 96, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away under Hospice care on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at his home, surrounded by family. He was born February 29, 1924 in Winimac, Indiana, son of Rufus and Violet (Reece) Bird. When he was 2 years old, his family moved to the Belleville area because his dad accepted a position at Belleville High School as a music teacher.

He graduated from Belleville High School and worked at the Ford Farm for a while. He then joined the Air Force and served in the Philippines and around the South Pacific. He met Arlene at the Sumpter Roller Rink and they were married March 15, 1947. Ralph attended Michigan State Normal (now EMU). He retired from Draw-Tite in 1989 after 40.5 years. He enjoyed being a part of the Red Apple Coffee Club. He loved spending time with his family. He and Arlene enjoyed "RVing" and were members of the Family Motor Coach Association and Michigan Nights of the Highway. He was a member of the Belleville First United Methodist Church since 1939, where he grew up singing in the choir and later taught Sunday school.

Mr. Bird is survived by his wife of 73 years Arlene M. (Titus) Bird; 4 children: Ray Leslie (Susanna) Bird of Chandler, Arizona, Roger Allen (Julie) Bird of Belleville, MI, Pamela (Michael) Fleming of Belleville and Craig A. Bird of Ypsilanti; 6 grandchildren: Kimberlee, Carey, Ryan, Kate, Angela and Christopher; 8 great-grandchildren; two sisters and a brother: Carolyn Wheatley of Wayne, MI, Cyril Bird of Romulus, MI and Rosalie (Harry) Doolittle of Arizona; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, also a brother, Gerald Bird.

Visitation was 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Friday, May 22, 2020 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Funeral Service was 2 p.m. Friday with Rev. Jim Walker officiating. Interment will follow in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church, Belleville.
www.davidcbrownfh.com

SHARON DARLENE COLEMAN

(April 15, 1946 – May 3, 2020)

Age 74, of Belleville. Survived by son Robert Antaya of Belleville; daughter Melissa Hillock of Ecorse; 4 grandchildren; sister Anita Collins. Cremation rites have been accorded. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.

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Clifford D. Wright

CLIFFORD DEDRICK WRIGHT

(May 11, 1939 – May 19, 2020)

Clifford Dedrick Wright, age 81, of Belleville, MI, passed away peacefully at his home early Tuesday, May 19, 2020. He was born May 11, 1939 in Detroit, MI, son of Clifford Dedrick & Helen Marie (Howell) Wright I.

Clifford graduated from Dearborn High School. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. He attended Henry Ford Community College and received his degree in accounting. He worked for Ford Credit for 34 years before he retired. He then enjoyed driving and expediting all around Michigan and out of state as well. He even received his private pilot's license in 2003. He is survived by his loving companion of nearly 30 years Jacalyn M. Kremhelmer of Belleville, MI, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, son David Clifford Wright in 2001 and brother Edward Henry Wright.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Priscilla (Hassen)
Burnison

PRISCILLA (HASSEN) BURNISON

(April 20, 1944 – April 5, 2020)

Priscilla (Hassen) Burnison, 75, of Ypsilanti, passed away on April 5, 2020, after a battle with cancer. Priscilla was born on April 20, 1944 to Samuel and Helen (Francis) Hassen and was the fourth of six children. She retired from Ford Rawsonville Plant. After retirement, she enjoyed traveling, playing cards, and being with friends and family. Enjoyed family functions. Preceded in death by her parents and sister Cynthia Gutowski. Priscilla is survived by daughter Dorothy and son John; one granddaughter Taylor who was very special to her; brothers Samuel Hassen, David (Gay) Hassen, and Lawrence Hassen; sister Sylvia Corman; brother-in-law Ed Gutowski; and many nieces and nephews.

Cremation has taken place and a memorial service will be held at a later date.

More Letters

Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

Please publish.

Thank you, St. Jude.

K.M., Belleville

Obituaries



Gerald A. Bluhm

GERALD A. BLUHM

(December 7, 1948 – May 21, 2020)

Gerald Arl Bluhm, age 71, passed away peacefully at home in Belleville, Michigan. He was born December 7, 1948 in Ypsilanti, Michigan, son of Donald and Doris (nee Mitchell) Bluhm.

Gerald (Jerry) Bluhm was a fixture in Michigan debate and forensics. While in high school Jerry was part of the Belleville High School debate team that won the state championship debate of 1967. He went onto Eastern Michigan University where he joined the powerhouse forensics program and in 1973 Jerry was the National Forensic Association National Champion. Active in the Association for many years, he would go on to coach high school and college teams. Jerry Bluhm was the only person in Michigan to be a high school and college champion that also coached high school and college national champion teams. He led teams at Brother Rice High School, Eastern Michigan University, Marshall University, and Wayne State University in addition to leading many summers of the University of Michigan Debate Institute and judging Michigan debate competitions. A tragic car accident impacted Jerry's ability to teach for the past several years, but he remained a sought-after coach who still helped students or judged competitions when possible.

In addition to debate and forensics, Jerry enjoyed spending time with his family and loved to read books. He always treated his kids to weekly bookstore trips when they were little. He was known for his ready smile, love of puns and wit, and students often cited him as an inspiration, great coach and mentor.

An avid chef, Jerry was always collecting new tools and gadgets to produce gourmet meals. He was at his happiest cooking large Christmas and Thanksgiving meals for his family. Jerry was disappointed when his children wanted Kraft Mac and Cheese over his gourmet four-cheese homemade recipe or when they would not try his patented meatloaf peanut butter and cheddar sandwich.

While teaching forensics at Marshall University Jerry met his wife Jeri, a fellow Professor in the forensics department. For more than 30 years they were always at each other's side. They would often make trips to visit family in Kentucky and enjoyed traveling to visit lighthouses, museums, and haunted restaurants. A devoted husband, Jerry deeply loved his wife and was able to spend his last days with his wife and passed peacefully with her by his side.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Jeri Robin North; his children from a prior marriage Sara (Bill) Gibson of New Hope PA, Christopher (Melissa) Bluhm of Troy MI, and Katharine (Alex) Moffly of Washington DC; his six grandchildren: Lucas, Arianna, Katharine, Isabel, Nicholas and Jack; his brother Ronald (Patti) Bluhm of Belleville MI; his aunt Delores Doria of Plymouth, MI ;and numerous extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI.

In light of recent health advisories, the family has decided to postpone services until a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Finca International and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Wayne Kaye Kollmeyer

WAYNE KAYE KOLLMMEYER

(August 3, 1942 – May 21, 2020)

Wayne Kaye Kollmeyer, age 77, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away late Thursday, May 21, 2020 at his home. He was born August 3, 1942 in New Castle, Indiana, one of ten children of George & Nettie (Riley) Kollmeyer.

Wayne was a social guy who never met a stranger. He was a member of the Elks, Eagles, Moose and American Legion. He was the Administrator for the New Castle Elks, and the Ypsilanti Moose and American Legion, during his retirement years. He enjoyed golfing and spending time with his family.

Mr. Kollmeyer is survived by his devoted wife Diana Kollmeyer; three children: Kris (Jenni) Kollmeyer, Stacey (Kit) Crane and Kurt (Dana) Kollmeyer; step-daughter Kimberly Yapp; 6 grandchildren: Katie, Cara, Emily, Abbey, Kendra and Garrett. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, and seven siblings.

According to his wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children or St. Joseph Mercy Hospice and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

DENNIS J. BADITOI

(January 24, 1952 – May 19, 2020)

Dennis John Badittoi, 68, of Ypsilanti, MI, died Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Superior Township, MI. He was born January 24, 1952 in Ypsilanti, MI, son of Fred G. & Theresa (Lustrea) Badittoi. He was a Belleville High School Graduate, Class of 1970. He retired from Ford Motor Company, Saline plant, after many years of loyal service. He enjoyed cars and hunting.

Dennis is survived by his 95-year-old mother Theresa Badittoi of Belleville, MI; two brothers Jerry Badittoi of Canton, MI and Mark (Tina) Badittoi of Ypsilanti, MI; also two cousins Karen Frueh of Texas and Jim Frueh of Missouri. He was preceded in death by his father in 2004 and also his grandparents John and Lena Lustrea. Interment was in Denton Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI. Arrangements by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. www.davidcbrownfh.com



Ron Pyzik

RONALD PYZIK

(October 29, 1942 – May 24, 2020)

Ronald Pyzik, age 77, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Sunday, May 24, 2020 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. He was born October 29, 1942, in Detroit, MI, son of Emily Helen (Obara) Pyzik. Ron graduated from Chadsey High School in Detroit. He proudly served his country in the US Navy. He retired as a Master Electrician at Ford Motor Company, Dearborn Plant, after 27 years of loyal service. He enjoyed fishing, refinishing furniture and collecting, repairing and gifting clocks. He loved music, especially the Blues.

Mr. Pyzik is survived by his loving wife Charlene J. (Eardly) Reynolds; six children: Karen (Billy) Compton of Dearborn Heights, MI, Dan (Nora) Pyzik of Whitmore Lake, MI, Ronald J. (Tina) Pyzik of Belleville, MI, David (Amanda) Reynolds of Garden City, MI, Kathleen (Jerry) Dunn of Waterford, MI and Carolyn (Marc) Wood of Grass Lake, MI; 12 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren and one on-the-way; sister Dorothy (Larry) McDermott of Grosse Ile, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, son Kenneth Reynolds, also two brothers Eugene & Edward Pyzik.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements entrusted to David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to American Lung Association and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

Letters

A tale of Supervisor David Jakokes and TC

To the editor:

My favorite memory of Mr. Jakokes happened during the first year of him being elected. He had concerns about our township hall resident cat named TC (township cat).

This particular cat had been living at township hall a few years. He was a stray brought in by the township clerk. The employees fed him during the week and I took him home on weekends.

TC would sometimes attend night meetings by walking across the table and resting himself on the pile of papers. Rosemary reported his presence in some of her newspaper articles. During the work day he usually could be found in the Treasurer's office resting atop the big tax rolls on the counter.

The VBT maintenance employee built TC a little house that was located near the front entrance of township hall, now referred to as the old building. I still have a picture of this little house which we called the cat

house.

One day Mr. Jakokes had a discussion with the Treasurer about what could be done about TC. The treasurer then held an informal meeting with the employees that were responsible for cleaning the litter box and feeding TC and we all decided that TC should remain our little mascot. It was the general feeling of all the employees that TC was here first and therefore should be allowed to stay.

It was then up to the treasurer to inform Mr. Jakokes. I will never forget the look of total defeat on his face when the treasurer firmly said to him, "The cat stays." Here was this hard-working supervisor, strongly devoted to the residents and township, and he's surrounded by four women advocating for this one little cat. He was out-numbered so I witnessed this tiny moment of weakness in him and he caved and the cat stayed.

During his administration, Supervisor Jakokes made some excellent appointments to the environmental commission: Marilyn Montgomery, George Deverich, etc. This commission was dedicated and devoted and they worked tirelessly to assist with the Host Community Agreement. During those times I was recording secretary to the environmental commission.

With regards to TC, the treasurer always kept an extra pair of nylons in her desk drawer because TC would pounce out of the thick hedges at the employee side entrance and she was never able to react in time to save her nylons.

Every Friday at the time clock at 5:00 I'd yell, "Here kitty, kitty." TC would come running and I'd scoop him up and take him home for the weekend. When I'd bring him back on Monday morning he'd position himself in the bushes waiting for his next victim.

The sad ending to the TC story is that someone took him from township hall a few years later. If he was outdoors someone might have thought he was a stray. We printed flyers and Rosemary put a notice in her paper but to no avail. We never did find out what happened to TC, so the employees decided to just hope that someone gave him a good home.

Denise Partridge
Van Buren Township



Letters

I should probably not watch press briefings

To the editor:

My heart is full of gratitude and appreciation for doctors, nurses, hospital maintenance staff, grocery and pharmacy employees, and those helping to staff food closets for those in need.

However, during this pandemic my heart has less charitable feeling for the President. I am a Democrat and have many friends and acquaintances who support the President. We have different perspectives regarding the administration, but we all want what is best for our country. Some folks tell me that their investments have been higher than ever during the Trump years. I, too, have some investments and want them to do well. However, my personal finances cannot be primary when our country is at risk.

This President says that he has total authority and knows better than the Generals. Let us hope that he does not also feel that he knows more than the scientists. However, that may have been his thought when he eliminated the Pandemic Task Force from his administration or made comments saying the virus was going to be like a miracle and would just go away.

Perhaps he thought that he knew best when he removed Dr. Messonnier from

her position at the Center for Disease Control. She warned of a pandemic and the disruption that it could cause to our country. Maybe he felt that he knew best when Dr. Bright, a noted vaccines researcher, was demoted while he was in the process of COVID-19 research.

He appears to have thought that his idea to inject disinfectants for the virus was so important that he shared it with the scientists at the press briefing and millions of people watching. These doctors have been researching and analyzing medicines and infectious diseases all over the world for decades. Perhaps he thought that the doctors might never think of injecting humans with Clorox or UV light for a CURE of the virus. His message did come to the attention of the Lysol and Clorox companies who immediately put out warnings against doing so.

My feelings about the President would be much more positive if he would not speak for hours in a press briefing and would allow the doctors and members of the task force to speak. They do so intelligently, concisely and having worked extremely hard to do their best for our nation in this time of distress. The President would be best-served if he could call up from within his soul that which allows him to put himself last and the people of our country first. That is crucial.

We all wish that the President and Fox News could have been accurate and that this virus had just been like the "old-fashioned" flu. It is with great sadness that

it has been more tragic than seasonal flu as we move towards 60,000 deaths from the COVID-19 virus.

In closing, let me write that I am frustrated and angry with the delay in this administration as they have sought to deal with the virus. The President often says that he was left with "garbage" to handle this pandemic. I have been pondering that statement. He has been in office for three years. I have no idea what preparation he was making during those three years in order to get rid of and replace the garbage of which he spoke.

I wonder if he questioned whether staffing for the Center for Disease Control was sufficient. Did he evaluate and update our stockpile of equipment? Did he assess the availability of tests for a pandemic that might occur? I do not know.

I would like for this President to do well because that is how our country will do well. I will just pray that I personally may feel more positive about the President, relinquish anger, and allow more charitable feelings to grow.

To do this I should probably no longer watch press briefings. Instead, this 82 year old will express appreciation for friends who have assisted her during this unusual time. I will call a friend and think of some kindness to bestow on another.

Mary Hoff

Van Buren Township

P.S. The deaths from Covid 19 were moving toward 60,000 when I first wrote this letter. Today they are moving toward 80,000. I heard O'Reilly on Fox news say that these are people in their last years anyway. Yes, but they are still human beings whom people love and about whom they care very much. My frustration has resurfaced. The Center for Disease Control has issued new guidelines for safely reopening the country and the President has discarded them. Perhaps he thinks we will not need them because he said that with warmer weather the virus will weaken and BE GONE. My friends, "real" summer had better come quickly if we are going to throw caution to the wind. Are we going to continue our complacency and not only throw caution into the wind with a virus but with the actions of the Justice Department as the Attorney General dismisses the Flynn case, as the President gives the order to open meat plants while at the same time relaxing the safety restrictions? Oh my goodness! I wonder how it might have been if at the very beginning the President had used the Defense Act to have all companies,

businesses, and labs to begin immediately providing the resources needed to get the job done. He picked and chose and I do not know why. Is there no end to this?

Aug. 4 election day is fast approaching

To the editor and the people of Sumpter Township:

As we come closer to the election day, time feels like it is passing by faster and faster. Before we know it, we will finally be taking our beautiful town back. Thanks to everyone who has helped spread the word, and enlighten their neighbors about the people who have been mishandling Sumpter Township for so long.

I empathize with the people who work at the township alongside Karen Armatis, Rob Young, and the rest of their associates. I know by experience they will make life hard for anyone who does not agree with them. This is America, where disagreements and compromises are fundamental. Those who disagree, they get rid of.

I am astonished that attorney Young has been able to take Sumpter Township for a 35-year-long ride. All thanks to John Morgan and his administration who allows them to run the show from behind the curtains. I am grateful the township has not had to file for bankruptcy after all they've done.

I encourage everyone to come out and vote Aug. 4 so we can finally bring Sumpter Township forward. I promise to continue dedicating myself to this purpose and the truth, for as long as God keeps the breath in my lungs.

Thank you,

Nelson S. Po

Any comments are appreciated and you can send me a note here: P.O. Box 2293, Belleville, MI 48112, or NelsonPo8822@gmail.com

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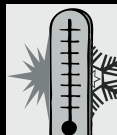
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Janay Dockery, Bridget Mattes earn degrees from Univ. of Findlay

FINDLAY, OHIO – Janay Dockery and Bridget Mattes, both of Belleville, received Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees at the University of Findlay at the end of the 2019-20 academic year.

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Memorial Day

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and Polish League of Americans presented an abbreviated Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in Belleville on Monday. They expected a crowd of the allowed ten, but more than 30 showed up, including technicians from the school district, Van Buren Township, and VFW under a tent. They all recorded the event for showing online and on the township's web site for those who couldn't attend because of the coronavirus. The American flag was at full-staff instead of the appropriate half-staff and it was explained that the line was broken and the city of Belleville will repair it as soon as it can.

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Girl Scouts of SE MI honor Myranda Ivey with Gold Award

Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan (GSSEM) has honored Myranda Ivey of Belleville with the highest award in Girl Scouts: the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Myranda is among 19 young women who have taken the initiative to better their communities through sustainable community change projects.

For her Gold Award project, Myranda focused on discipline in the education system. She designed and created a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) store at Inkster Preparatory Academy. She said she felt that in today's society, children are not motivated to do well in school, and school staff spend more time punishing children for the mistakes and wrong decisions they make. Instead, she believed, they should reinforce a positive attitude by rewarding them for good behavior.

The store works by students who do good deeds or are well behaved in the classroom setting (i.e. helping another student, turning their homework in everyday for a week, etc.), earn "Tiger Tickets" and are able to spend those tickets in the PBIS store for various rewards. For example, students can earn a range of incentives from pencils and pens, to skipping the lunch line, to 15 minutes of extra recess. The overall goal is for students to improve their grades, behavior, citizenship, expectations, and attendance using "prevention not punishment." There was a grand opening for the store, and nearly 100 students came to the celebration.

"I learned the importance of motivators, improved my confidence, developed better communication and decision-making skills," said Myranda. "But most importantly, I learned that I can get the job done."

Denise Dalrymple, chief executive officer of GSSEM, shared in her excitement.



Myranda Ivey

"We couldn't be happier to congratulate and honor our 2020 Gold Awardees," said Dalrymple. "These Girl Scouts are the brightest examples of what Girl Scouting is about, inspiring girls to be leaders and change agents. This award is an honor for them, but truly we are the ones who are honored to support and promote these go-getters as they take bold steps and share their work with the world."

The Gold Award is Girl Scout's highest honor and is presented to Girl Scouts who address a community issue or problem they are passionate about. They're required to spend a minimum of 80 hours investigating the problem, creating a plan, and implementing it. Some of the projects have reached beyond Michigan to national and international communities.

GSSEM has launched a social media campaign to highlight a Gold Award Girl Scout, running until June 5. The posts will detail the remarkable contribution each girl made to improve her community. Follow @GSSEM on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to join the digital recognition.

For a full list of Gold Award Girl Scouts and their projects visit gssem.org/honors2020.

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Digital Court Watching**34th District Court
begins showing court
appearances via Zoom**

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On May 21, Kevin Joseph Bonam, 42, now of Inkster, asked 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green for a bench trial on his misdemeanor charge of domestic violence, which allegedly occurred on May 7 in Van Buren Township.

The request was made during a virtual Zoom pretrial, with Judge Green in her office and the attorneys and defendant elsewhere but linked by their computers or phones.

Virtual court appearances began May 15, following the Michigan Supreme Court direction to allow the public to witness the sessions.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Larry King said he made a plea deal offer for Bonam to plead guilty to the charge and be placed on 12-month probation, but Bonam wanted a trial. Judge Green said the trial will be set and Bonam and his court-appointed attorney Teresa Patton will be advised of the date and time of the trial. The case will be reviewed on June 30.

Meanwhile Bonam is out on 10% bond and was advised to have no contact with the victim or the address on Denton Road where he used to live.

Jarod Sanders Brown-Hughes

Jarod Sanders Brown-Hughes, 29, of Ann Arbor and previously of Water's Edge, at his pretrial asked Judge Green for a jury trial, that will be set in the future. He is charged with domestic violence – second offense notice -- on Sept. 4, 2019, in Van Buren Township.

Brown-Hughes said the charges are false and he has proof he was incarcerated at the time of the alleged domestic violence.

Judge Green said the court's bench trials will happen first, since they can be done with the attorneys, defendants and witnesses either in the courtroom masked or available by Zoom.

She said everybody present would be masked and if the attorney wants to see facial expressions, without a mask, those people could testify by Zoom.

She said the plan now is to schedule the

court sessions so people can participate without having to wait all morning for a case, like it was in the past in the court.

Prosecutor King said he is waiting for discovery evidence that was delayed because of COVID-19. Defense attorney Patton was having trouble with her computer and so the court session was ended and then restarted.

Brown-Hughes and his attorney will be advised of the jury date in the future. The case will be reviewed on June 30. The defendant is free after posting bond of \$4,000/10%.

Michael Jermaine Stone

Michael Jermaine Stone, 39, of Van Buren Township, was charged with domestic violence – second offense notice, a misdemeanor, on Feb. 18 in Van Buren Township. This had been amended from a felony third-offense notice.

He is free on personal bond of \$1,000 and is to have no contact with the victim and cannot return to an address on Parkwood.

His pretrial on the reduced charge was set for May 21 before Judge Green. But he is now waiting for another date for his pretrial to see if the Neighborhood Defender Service, that defends felonies, will stay with him for the charge which is now a misdemeanor. The NDS usually does only felonies.

The case is scheduled for review on June 30.

Brittany Nicole Allen

Brittany Nicole Allen, 23, of Belleville, is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and domestic violence in Van Buren Township on May 8. Her probable cause conference was set by Chief Judge Brian Oakley for 10 a.m. May 27 and she was to have no contact with the victim or an address in the 48600 block of I-94 Service Drive. She is free after posting 10% cash bond.

Ronnie Ann Richards

Ronnie Ann Richards, 50, who previously lived on Nevada Street in Sumpter Township, had her May 20 probable cause conference before Judge Oakley by Zoom and demanded a live preliminary exam. She is free on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond and is not to purchase/possess or consume mood-altering substances.

According to court records she is charged with possession of controlled substance—second on Nov. 4 in Sumpter Township. She was charged on Feb. 12 and the warrant was

entered into LEIN. She was extradited from an adjoining state by Sumpter Township police on May 4 and was arraigned at the court on May 5.

The case is scheduled for a review on June 30.

Demario Marcell Marshall

Demario Marcell Marshall, 22, of Romulus, was arrested by Michigan State Police for carrying a concealed weapon on May 19. He was video arraigned by Magistrate Alan Hindman on May 21 and personal bond of \$3,000 set. His probable cause conference was set for June 3 before Judge Oakley. His preliminary exam is demanded.

Todd Andrew Blake

Todd Andrew Blake, 55, of Ypsilanti was charged with fleeing police in a vehicle and driving while license suspended in Sumpter Township on Nov. 6, 2018. After his court sessions in July 2019, he did not appear and it was confirmed Blake was in state prison and would be released Aug. 2, 2019. But he did not appear in court as ordered and a bench warrant was issued and entered into LEIN, with statewide pickup. On May 21 the warrant was canceled by Sumpter PD and Blake was arraigned by Magistrate Hindman. Blake's probable cause conference was set for 10:10 a.m. June 3 before Judge Oakley. He is free on personal bond of \$10,000.

Blake currently is listed by the Michigan Department of Corrections as an absconder from parole.

Anthony Todd Warren

Anthony Todd Warren, 38, of Sumpter Township has been charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder and assault with a dangerous weapon on May 1 in Van Buren Township. He was present by Zoom from jail for his May 20 probable cause conference before Judge Green. His court-appointed attorney Mike Carter said his client wants an in-person preliminary exam.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Lori Mireles-Smith said she expected to have two or three witnesses and one or two lay witnesses for the exam.

Bond had been set at \$50,000 cash or surety and he was to have no contact with the victim. He was not to be released without a GPS tether.

A live preliminary exam date will be set in the future. The case is scheduled for a review on June 30.

Adam Daniel Sweeting

Adam Daniel Sweeting, 37, now of Farmington Hills, was waiting for a May 28 pretrial hearing on a May 14 charge of domestic violence, when it was alleged he violated his \$5,000 conditional personal bond by having contact with the victim.

On May 22, he was brought before Judge Oakley by Zoom from the Van Buren Township Police Department where he was being held. Judge Oakley asked if he had an attorney for the divorce that was to be filed and he said he didn't have an attorney yet. He earlier had declined a court-appointed attorney. Judge Oakley said he needed to get an attorney who could take care of the divorce and this problem, too.

"The only reason I'm not setting high bond is the COVID," Judge Oakley told him. "The magistrate said no contact. She saw you at her mailbox and identified your clothes you were wearing when the police picked you up. There is to be NO CONTACT."

Sweeting said he was trying to set up visitation through her mother and, "I expected civil standby and they were not available."

Judge Oakley said Sweeting could work through a third party to set up visitation with his children, but there was to be no contact with his wife.

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Romulus City Council accepts 34th District Court deficit budget, 5-2

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Over the last five fiscal years, the 34th District Court paid \$16,760,894.98 to its host community, the City of Romulus, but the budgets for the current year and next fiscal year are different. Now, its Romulus' turn to pay for the court.

At its zoom telephone conference on May 11, the Romulus City Council accepted the court's actual to-date current and proposed budgets on a 5-2 split vote.

The court's one-page budget was included in a motion for the city's budget and General and Special Appropriations Act and Tax Levy Authorization.

Councilwomen Virginia Williams and Kathleen Abdo said they couldn't vote for the proposal because the current \$4,407,623 court budget that ends June 30 had a deficit at the end of this fiscal year of \$77,633 and the new \$4,902,300 budget had an unfunded \$494,677 increase for the year ending June 30, 2021.

"I cannot approve something I cannot agree with," Councilwoman Williams said, adding there is over a \$77,000 deficit. "Where would that money be coming from? It's not carried over. There are too many questions."

"I have the same concern," Councilwoman Abdo said. "They've been in deficit spending for two years in a row. A half million in the new budget. That's crazy. What I agree with is the same as last year."

"I can't vote for it with the extra half million dollars," Abdo said.

"I taught math for 40 years," Abdo said. "The City of Romulus is responsible. I can't vote for it... What happens when they can't pay for the building? What do we tell the people of Romulus?"

"The pandemic caught everyone off guard," said Councilwoman Tina Talley. "They have

self-funded themselves for years. We're in the middle. We have to come together and help work this out."

Mayor LeRoy Burcroff said this is the process they've had for being a host community and it has benefitted the city for many years. He said the city gets two-thirds of the court's revenue.

The city budget and court budget were first presented to the council on April 27 and council members asked for more details about the court budget at their May 4 meeting. Mayor LeRoy Burcroff said he would get more details from the chief judge.

In his May 8 memo to the council, the new Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley said for 25 years, a very detailed budget was prepared and submitted by Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green and last year the court received a number of complaints about the format of the 2019/20, and prior, budgets.

"When I became chief justice in January 2020, the decision was made to have the 2020/21 court budget prepared by a CPA," Judge Oakley wrote. "As such, the court engaged the services of Post, Smythe, Lutz and Ziel, LLP."

He said the budget submitted to the council on April 27 was not a special format but was in keeping with sound accounting practices and the court has no plans to revise or change its budget format.

Judge Oakley addressed questions sent to the mayor on the court budget and said Councilwoman Williams appears to be requesting that the court provide an expenditure breakdown separated by department.

"Given the fact that the council has no authority over how the court allocates its resources, I see no need to provide that detail," Oakley wrote. "The court is a separate branch of government and we determine how best to allocate court resources."

"Many of Ms. Williams' inquiries are about court revenues; as I am sure most council members understand, the court has very limited control over the revenue stream that we have to work with," Oakley wrote. "We do not make arrests or issue tickets. As a result, any future revenue projections can only be made based on past revenues and educated estimates. Obviously, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that our projected revenues for 2020/21 will be inaccurate."

Oakley said the revenues coming to the court are used to pay the court's operating expense and all monies in excess of expenditures are then paid to the City of Romulus.

He said a question on a \$900 per month expenditure (\$11,000) is due to the AT&T phone system in the new court. Also, Oakley wrote, the 34th District Court is definitely NOT financially responsible for the replacement of the Veterans' Memorial. He said \$58,000 remains in the new court construction budget that has been set aside for the monument committee to use for that purpose.

Oakley also wrote that the city is responsible for the cost of the new court.

"The building belongs to the city and the city borrowed the bond money," he wrote. "The position of the court has not changed; as long as revenues are constant and the State does not change the mechanism for court funding, the 34th DC will generate funds sufficient to repay the bond."

"Due to the fact that the court does not control our revenue stream it would be irresponsible for us to make any guarantees as to what payments will or will not be made," Oakley wrote.

"As you all know, we are preparing to move into a facility that is approximately 60% larger than our current building," he wrote. "Many of our expenses are expected to go up as a result. The lion's share of our increase is for new personnel. We will need more security because we will have to cover two floors and more square footage."

"We have been short-staffed for years and had planned to hire clerks now that we have space to put them to work. Obviously, with the COVID-19 disruptions, we do not know when we will get back to full operation levels. As such, I do not anticipate the need for additional clerks until that happens and perhaps even later than that," he said.

Oakley said he does not wish to give the

impression that the court is being secretive in any way.

"However, I do plan to maintain a clear line of distinction between our two equal but separate branches of government," he concluded.

Councilwoman Williams replied in a May 8 memo to Judge Oakley that it appeared that in the last two years the court has operated in a deficit.

"A budget deficit occurs when government spending is greater than the revenue collected," Williams wrote. "Why would you even think it's normal to ask for a negative budget to be approved? It's customary to ask a question for clarification. As judges always say, 'Being ignorant to the law is not an excuse.'"

Williams said in 2019 Judge Green did promise to give a detailed budget for 2020.

"Maybe because of the conflict with the court accusing the City of Romulus of stealing/misappropriating their money (FUF), it went over your head. Even the mayor had comments concerning the one-page budget that was presented to council at that time," Williams wrote to Oakley.

"I will never forget that situation with the 34th District Court and the City of Romulus," she wrote. "The allegations just disappeared with the alleged millions that was supposed to be owed to the court and the other four communities."

"...No defendant or plaintiff can stand in front of a judge with evidence of missing money owing to no one and the judge make the issue disappear as if it never happened. This is not about Respect. It is about Lack of Trust," she wrote.

Williams said she sat at a meeting in Judge Green's courtroom when the court's claim against the city for \$3 million was made to "go away." She said the mayors of Belleville and Romulus were present, along with the supervisor of Van Buren Township, among others.

The 34th District Court serves the cities of Belleville and Romulus and the townships of Huron, Sumpter, and Van Buren, along with Metropolitan Airport and the local Metro Parks. The court building has been closed since mid-March by the governor's executive orders to fight COVID-19. Although the court had expected to move into its new building next door in mid-April, that has not yet happened.

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More Letters

Help us honor World War II heroes

To the editor:

Yankee Air Museum is inviting everyone to join a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. May 8 is Victory in Europe Day (VE Day).

Please take a moment to imagine what it must have been like 75 years ago. Then, watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuO6mYKSJp0> which is our humble, heartfelt way to begin honoring our World War II veterans, from the military and the home front.

Perhaps you have an ancestor from this historic era, or know someone who does. We ask that everyone pay tribute to the Greatest Generation, even as we shelter and work at home during this pandemic. People can share on Facebook or Instagram a photo or video of a relative who served during WWII. When you share a photo or short video of your WWII hero, make sure to tag Yankee Air Museum and use the hashtag: #WWIIHERO #YankeeAirMuseum so we can see it!

Will you please help us extend the invitation to everyone, so they may recognize their hero of World War Two? Yankee Air Museum will continue to compile the meaningful segments we receive and update this virtual tribute

throughout the summer to include Victory Over Japan Day (VJ Day) and the ultimate surrender and cessation of hostilities throughout the world.

Our Greatest Generation is perishing fast. Let's make sure they hear us with accolades and gratitude for their sacrifices made many years ago but ensuring our freedom today.

Dave Callanan

Director of Outreach Services and PR
Exec., Yankee Air Museum, Belleville
dave.callanan@yankeeairmuseum.org

P.S. Here is a link to our facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yankeeairmuseum/>
Our instagram name is: yankee_air_museum . Remember, use the hashtag #WWIIHERO .

Willis man arrested for alleged assault with tire iron at Elwell Rd. home

Norman Ladale Johnson, 31, of Willis, was arraigned May 19 by 34th District Court Chief Judge Brian Oakley on a four-count felony warrant stemming from an incident at a residence in the 23000 block of Elwell Road on Saturday, May 16.

The charges are:

- Assault with intent to murder
- Home invasion first degree
- Assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder
- Assault with a dangerous weapon

He was jailed after bond was set at \$50,000 cash. His probable cause conference was set for 11:20 a.m., May 27, before Judge Tina Brooks Green.

Johnson allegedly forced entry into the residence occupied by the 26-year-old male victim, an acquaintance of his. Johnson then proceeded to attack the victim about the head and torso with a tire iron causing severe injuries.

The victim exited the residence with Johnson in pursuit and continuing to attack him in the yard before the victim was eventually able to break free and flee on foot.

The victim returned to the residence to call 911 after Johnson fled the scene in a silver Ford Explorer.

Sgt. Joseph Balowski, responding to the scene, observed the suspect vehicle westbound on Willow near Rawsonville and made a traffic stop as it crossed over into Washtenaw County.

Johnson was taken into custody without incident but denied any knowledge of the incident or even being on Elwell. The incident, however, was caught on the victim's home security camera system.

VBT summer youth program seeks homesites for community clean-up

Van Buren Township's summer youth program is seeking home sites for neighborhood clean ups. All sites must be within Van Buren Charter Township boundaries and be occupied by someone who is at least 55 years of age and has no viable means of completing yard work.

"The R.E.A.L. (Revealing Exceptionally Amazing Leaders) program offers a great experience to students while making money," said VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara. "We're fortunate to be offering this summer program to area youth from a Wayne County grant."

All home sites will be reviewed upon notification for a thorough assessment prior to scheduling an appointment. Call (734) 699-8900, ext. 9293, by July 5 to schedule an assessment of property.

Service appointments are limited and will include mowing, edging, pruning, weeding, planted areas, leaf clean up, hedge trimming, plant and flower maintenance, and mulching (provided by the homeowner).

"It takes a lot of planning and organizing to offer this service to residents and the youth participate, but most importantly we're looking forward to helping those in need," said Human Service Director Nicole Sumpter.

This program is a one-time community service and not a professional landscaping company. The township reserves the right to turn down any citizen for lawn-care services.

Due to COVID-19, several aspects of the program will be altered to comply with Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders, said Director Sumpter. The R.E.A.L. program will follow all guidelines from the CDC, Wayne county Public Health Department, and OSHA, she said. *News release*

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Belleville DDA approves contracts for grass mowing, flower planting

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

At its first virtual Zoom meeting on May 20, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority approved contracts for grass mowing in parks and landscaping service in the DDA district.

DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson said the call for bids for grass mowing at four city parks went out in February and six companies responded in March.

DDA members Jason Mida and Jim Chudzinski looked them over and made a recommendation to retain the current contractor Gonzy's Property Maintenance of Sumpter Township, the low bidder for \$8,553 for an estimated 22 weeks at one cutting per week for one year.

The work will be supervised by DPW Director Rick Rutherford.

Mida was present at the meeting virtually, but his audio couldn't be turned on at first and he was unable to speak on this contract recommendation. Chudzinski was absent.

Others bidding were Pioneer Landscaping, Outdoor Experts Inc., A&W Lawn & Leaf, Randy Brown Landscaping, and Louie & Williams Lawn Care, which only bid on Victory Park.

The bids were requested for three years. The parks to be mowed are Horizon, Doane's Landing, Victory, and Village.

Councilwoman Kelly Bates, who was present from her home, said she lives in Victoria Commons, next to Village Park, and one of her concerns with Gonzy is cleanup. She said weed whipping is needed by the fences.

"They haven't been edged in so long it is overgrown over the sidewalks, narrowing the sidewalks," Councilwoman Bates said.

Thompson said neither grass blowing or edging is specified in the bid specification written by DPW Director Rutherford. Later, it was determined the specifications do require grass blowing and edging.

Councilwoman Bates said there are 220 homes in Victoria Commons. She held up pictures to her computer to take the images to the virtual meeting.

"Grass is all over the sidewalks and weeds are almost the height of the fences," Bates said. "Grass is all over the blacktop path in the park." She added that dead trees are lying in the park and trees have been cut selectively.

"We're in charge of that area," said DDA chairwoman Alicia McGovern. "I don't know why we wouldn't be doing that." She asked Thompson to talk to Rutherford about it.

Councilman Ken Voigt, who was attending the meeting via Zoom, said the grass had been cut on Fridays in Horizon Park and he would

like it cut Thursdays so the park would be ready for the Music Lakeside concerts.

Thompson said the proposal did include grass cutting being done before the concerts.

Thompson said Gonzy had the contract through 2019 and he picked up the mowing at the early part of the month.

"We didn't plan on conoronavirus or the pandemic to interfere with our doing business."

Treasurer Sabrina Richardson-Williams, who came to the meeting late, said she read Rutherford's grass-cutting specifications and the requirements for cleaning up the grass and edging are in there.

"They've been on this for three years and not doing this," Bates said. "They aren't doing it and they should be doing it."

DDA member Valerie Kelley-Bonner said they can go forward with Gonzy, but who's going to make them accountable?

"The DDA will hold them accountable," chairwoman McGovern said. "I have no problem walking down there with Kelly."

"Are there problems with any of the other parks?" asked Secretary Denise Baker.

"I would think Rick Rutherford would be the person to address Gonzy," Williams said.

"Rick Rutherford and I often walk the parks and anyone else is welcome to walk and call it in," Thompson said.

McGovern asked the DDA if they want to continue with Gonzy or go with someone with higher cost who will do the work. She said she had heard complaints from Victoria Commons for two years.

She said Village Park is a small part of the contract and they could go with him this year and see how they do.

"We can definitely move the contract next year if they are not doing the job," McGovern said.

The DDA voted unanimously to award the contract to Gonzy for a year.

Landscaping contract

The DDA also went out for three-year proposals for flowers in the DDA district, referred to as "landscaping services."

Two local vendors submitted proposals and the higher bid of Pioneer Landscaping of Van Buren Township was recommended after a review by Rutherford, Thompson, Mida, and Chudzinski.

Pioneer had raised its rates from \$25 an hour for the last three years, to \$30 for the next three years for planning annuals and weeding and planting bed maintenance.

During the interview Pioneer showed photos of previous flower designs, including using flower colors for patriotic and heart designs, and discussed design for 2020. A crew of two

would weed about every two weeks, with special preparation before events.

Randy Brown Landscaping of Van Buren Township bid \$25, \$25.75, and \$26.50 for the work over three years.

Brown told the committee he would leave plant selections to the DDA and suggested removing annuals in late August for fall replanting. A maintenance crew of three or four would weed monthly.

"I wish Jason could talk," said Thompson of Mida's virtual attendance audio problems.

"Pioneer brought pictures and design plans," said Thompson. "Randy said he would leave it up to the DDA for changes and pull up perennials each fall and replant. Not a winning proposal."

McGovern gave her phone number to Mida and asked him to call her and she would put it on speakerphone. She said she wants to hear what Mida and Chudzinski said.

Mida called and said he was very impressed with Pioneer's proposal with its pictures and ideas on plants. He said the bid was a little bit more.

He said Randy Brown said he would weed once a month and, "Randy didn't show up with a lot of plans, not strong ideas. We looked at both proposals and we're happy with what Pioneer has done in the past."

Mida said Pioneer wants to get started as soon as possible, if it is awarded the contract.

"Randy didn't have a solid vision, compared to Pioneer," Mida said.

Thompson said in a separate agreement, Garden Fantasy on Main puts out some pumpkins and mum plants for the Booville fest and decorates before WinterFest.

The agreement with Pioneer for three years

was unanimously approved, with Mida using a thumbs-up logo in the corner of his Zoom picture to vote.

DDA Project Plans

A lengthy discussion at the two-hour meeting was held considering what projects the DDA can undertake in the future. At the Feb. 19 meeting, when they last met, McGovern asked for input from DDA members and some ideas were turned in in writing.

McGovern said there could be a small advisory group to put together ideas with a timeline and vision.

Thompson said City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz has done an incredible job in seeing where the city is on the Belleville 2020 plan created in the late 1990s.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said the city is in a very different place than it was six months ago.

"How do we start to help businesses?" she asked, noting she has been on calls with other communities. "There's a lot that's going on, a lot of unknowns."

"We have to help businesses come back to the community, such as designating spaces for pick up," she said. "A lot of things that might have been on the agenda ... have changed."

McGovern said it won't be one group or a board, but will take a lot of them.

"Too many people doing too many things," she said. "We've gone through a lot ... We're working on many ideas."

She said she and Thompson are working with the city manager and others on ideas.

"I would like a review of the 2020 plan," said Williams.

"I think that should be our basis," McGovern said.



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Farmers' Market opens June 1 on the Fourth St. Square in Belleville

The Belleville Farmers' Market will open at 4 p.m. Monday, June 1, at the Fourth Street Square in downtown Belleville. It is expected to run from 4 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays through September.

Janet Millard of the Belleville Central Business Community, which is sponsoring the market, said vendors will offer food that is locally grown and made, with items available changing as the season progresses.

Presenting sponsors of the market are Genisys Credit Union, Sumpter Collision, Express Tire Automotive Repair, and the Belleville Downtown Development Authority.

Millard said the CBC is hoping the Monday Night Main Street Cruise Classic Car Show will be able to open Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m., also through September.

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Jackson Hewitt Tax Service, located a few doors down from Dollar Tree in the plaza on Sumpter Road, is open and accepting appointments for the upcoming July 15 tax deadline. Call Lesa Foster for details at (734) 732-4554. Jackson Hewitt also prepares business and corporate tax returns. See their ad in today's paper.

The Belleville Farmer's Market is scheduled to start up on Mondays, beginning June 1, from 4 until 7:30 p.m. in the Fourth Street Square on Main Street with food, flowers, and vegetable vendors only at this time. State guidelines and self-distancing practices will be in place. Food and market vendors are welcome to join the weekly event, which will be held through September. The event is organized by the Belleville Central Business Community and sponsored by Genisys Credit Union, Sumpter Collision, Express Tire & Automotive Repair, and Belleville Downtown on the Lake. For vendor info, call Janet Millard at (734) 558-5386 after 3:30 p.m. or email jfayemillard@att.net. Visit the market also on Facebook at [BellevilleFarmersMarket](https://www.facebook.com/BellevilleFarmersMarket). See their ad in today's paper.

The Belleville Culver's restaurant on Belleville Road and the North I-94 Service Drive is and has been open for drive-through orders only since the pandemic started a few months ago and remains open, despite all the contractors and commercial vehicles on site, working on a new remodel on the inside, according to owner Alexis Bobbitt. Once completed and restaurants throughout the state re-open to dine-in service with restrictions, patrons will be in for a treat with a new dining area, décor and much more. When the old booths were pulled up, Alexis put a shout out to see if anyone was interested in them, free of charge, of course, and the next day they were gone. Repurposed. Looking forward to the big reveal soon, Alexis. Meanwhile orders can be called ahead to (734) 699-6100.

The deadline for cheerleading in the Huron Junior Chief's fall football program in New Boston has been extended to June 15. Football registration for Pre-K to 6th Grade Flag, tackle JV and V, is July 18. To learn more, email huronjrchiefs@gmail.com and visit www.huronjrchiefs.weebly.com and see their ad in today's paper.

Just when we reflect on our lives as we continue to shelter in place and spend more time with family, it's Memorial Day weekend, the official start of summer. It's a time to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I see more and more families spending time together outdoors as the weather improves, like walking, riding bikes and horses along the back roads of Sumpter, where I live. There are also more American flags flying these days. Thank you, veterans, for your service and sacrifice.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020

Rotary Club presents three scholarships in virtual meeting

On Tuesday, May 19, the Rotary Club of Belleville held its 75th annual scholarship program using Zoom technology. Three \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to graduates who live in the Belleville area.

The two academic scholarships went to Collin Patrick Attard and Haley Ray Bellingham; and the Community Service scholarship to Joseph Randall Budd.

Belleville Rotary Club President Rachel Kozlowski offered welcoming remarks followed by 34th District Court Judge David Parrott's introduction of keynote speaker Mike Kole, chairman of the Kole Performance Group and interim director of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. Kole also is a Professor of Leadership at Northwood University.

Kole's presentation, directed primarily at the student awardees, described historical challenges in previous generations that were often met and solved by dreamers -- men and women -- who pursued their challenges with persistence and overcame the roadblocks that were in their way.

He suggested we all should find our dream. Then he explained that whatever a person's dream might be -- even if it is unclear how it can be realized -- should be pursued, going as far as they can see, because at that point they will recognize other previously unforeseen opportunities and they can progress. It will be through this persistent process that our current generation of dreamers will recognize and resolve the issues that face them and us, he said.

Following Kole's address, the scholarship presentations were made by members of the Belleville club's Scholarship Committee: Rotarians Glenn Silvenis and Judge Parrott, with President Kozlowski presenting the final award. The awardees thanked Rotary and spoke about their plans going forward and how the scholarships will assist them in reaching academic goals.

After the presentations, President Kozlowski thanked all the virtual attendees, the scholarship committee and any others whose work made the evening possible.

Since its inception, Rotary Club of Belleville has awarded a total of \$567,500 to Belleville High School students in the club's scholarship program. This year, as in recent years, the primary funding source for the program has been the Charles B. Cozadd Rotary Foundation which assists the club in the funding or partial funding of many of its projects.

"Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear."

— Harry S. Truman

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

These are the 190 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week.

Sunday, May 17:

0131 – hospice death, Belleville Rd.
0209 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
0429 – assist other dept., Parkside Dr.
0533 – assist other dept., Ecorse Rd.
0737 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1129 – domestic, Lighthouse Dr.
1343 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1352 – civil matter, Parkwood Dr.
1442 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Parkwood Dr.
1455 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1518 – private property/property damage accident, Park Estates Dr.
1657 – animal complaint, Brandi
1737 – disorderly, Brandi
1901 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd./W. Huron River Dr.

Monday, May 18:

0725 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0745 – welfare check, Westlake Cir.
1041 – welfare check, Oak Ln.
1052 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1108 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1108 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1241 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1306 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
1314 – fraud, Wildbrook Dr.
1536 – suspicious person/vehicle, Juniper Dr.
1543 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rebecca Ct. / Anna Dr.
1550 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1740 – property damage accident, Belleville/Van Born

1822 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
1926 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2045 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rebecca Ct. / Anna Dr.
2100 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2101 – welfare check, Burtrig St.
2102 – assist citizen, Pine Dr.
2123 – assist other dept., S. Woodbury Dr.
2214 – civil matter, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2313 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Tuesday, May 19:

0029 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0155 – family trouble, S. Bellridge Dr.
0237 – disorderly, Rogers Ave.
0240 – domestic, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0320 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0649 – animal complaint, Daisy Blve.
0916 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0925 – suspicious person/vehicle, McBride Ave.
1012 – harassment call, Parkwood Dr.
1158 – assist fire dept., Belleville Rd.
1401 – fraud, Arthur St.
1428 – assist fire dept., W. Huron River Dr.
1508 – juvenile complaint, Sylvia/Rawsonville
1548 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
1552 – misc. complaint, Ash Dr.
1712 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1859 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
1936 – domestic, Fairbanks St.
2000 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, May 20:

0030 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Woodbury Dr. / S. Bunton Dr.
0316 – misc. complaint, Belleville Rd.
0324 – intrusion alarm, Brookview Dr.
0911 – misc. complaint, Industrial
1024 – assist fire dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1136 – family trouble, Bayshore Dr.
1153 – ordinance violation, Marlowe Ave.
1306 – suspicious person/vehicle, Michigan Ave.
1434 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1452 – parking complaint, Denton Rd.
1512 – intrusion alarm, Tavistock Dr.
1654 – road hazard, Van Buren St.
1806 – personal injury accident, Haggerty/Van Born
1846 – parking complaint, W. Adams
1900 – disorderly, Chester Ct.
1942 – juvenile complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1955 – missing person, Cambridge Ct.

2038 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2113 – animal complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2158 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2200 – disorderly, Haggerty Rd.
2242 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
2244 – family trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2302 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood
2304 – missing person, Cobblestone Creek Dr.

Thursday, May 21:

0042 – personal injury accident, N. I-275/Ecorse
0140 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
0147 – intrusion alarm, Van Born Rd.
0619 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0855 – larceny, Huron River Dr.
1011 – fraud, Togowtee Pass
1128 – trespassing, Haggerty Rd.
1147 – road hazard, Belleville Rd.
1151 – trespassing, Rawsonville Rd.
1215 – intrusion alarm, Harmony Ln.
1216 – malicious destruction of property, Richard Run Dr.

1257 – neighbor trouble, Alden Ave.
1308 – threat, Holly Ln.
1310 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1314 – property damage accident, Savage Rd. / Haggerty Rd.

1325 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1457 – missing person, Brandi Dr.
1502 – malicious destruction of property, Elwell
1506 – misc. traffic, Belleville Rd.
1531 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Huron River Dr.

1655 – neighbor trouble, E. Adams
1709 – civil matter, Haggerty Rd./McBride Ave.
1741 – PPO violation, Winchester St.
1923 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1933 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
2043 – malicious destruction of property, Belleville Rd.

2049 – suspicious person/vehicle, Water’s Edge
2057 – vehicle lockout, Parkwood Dr.
2109 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
2143 – fight, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2353 – 911 welfare check, Walden Blvd.

Friday, May 22:

0033 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.
0042 – noise complaint, Van Buren St.
0048 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0342 – noise complaint, Victoria St.
0429 – traffic offense, Savage Rd./Lenmoore Ave.
0433 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Woodbury
0503 – domestic, McKinley St.
0655 – intrusion alarm, Marlowe Ave.
0916 – assist other dept., N. Ponderosa Trl.
1020 – neighbor trouble, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1023 – family trouble, Birch Dr.
1125 – fraud, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1209 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Parkwood Dr.

1228 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1302 – family trouble, Landmark
1349 – property damage accident, Belleville/Ecorse
1549 – fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
1800 – welfare check, S. Woodbury Dr.
1813 – property damage accident, Birch Dr.
1821 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.

1829 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.

1840 – runaway, Quirk Rd.
2036 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.
2352 – disorderly, Lighthouse Dr.

Saturday, May 23:

0042 – welfare check, Lake Villa Dr.
0051 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0104 – intrusion alarm, Ecorse Rd.
0140 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
0145 – disorderly, Maple Dr.
0210 – assist fire dept., N. I-94 Service Dr.
0402 – welfare check, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.

0429 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
0650 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
0715 – 911 welfare check, Laguna Dr.
0723 – mental subject, Richard Run Dr.
0955 – warrant arrest, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1037 – motorist assist, Haggerty Rd./Coolidge St.
1114 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1204 – intrusion alarm, Bemis Rd.
1219 – family trouble, Lighthouse Dr.
1227 – family trouble, Belleville Rd.
1233 – noise complaint, Robson Rd.

1259 – neighbor trouble, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1416 – ordinance violation, Hannan Rd.
1447 – welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
1456 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1509 – ordinance violation, Riggs/Martinsville
1516 – traffic offense, N. Ponderosa Trl.
1524 – follow up by officer, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1526 – noise complaint, S. Bellridge Dr.
1632 – suspicious person/vehicle, Maple Dr.
1637 – intrusion alarm, Pebblebrook Dr.
1721 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1759 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.
1806 – threat, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1840 – welfare check, Elwell Rd.
1846 – animal complaint, Greenbriar Dr.
1856 – noise complaint, Pine Dr.
1908 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1925 – parking complaint, Berkdale/Lancaster
1927 – overdose, Westlake Cir.
1930 – welfare check, Park Estates Dr.
2002 – welfare check, Holly Ln.
2002 – noise complaint, Parkwood Dr./Tyler Rd.
2006 – road hazard, McBride
2007 – parking complaint, Walden Blvd./Tyler Rd.
2032 – overdose, S. I-94 Service Dr.

2054 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Oak Ln.

2111 – found property/child, Rawsonville Rd.
2152 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2157 – civil matter, S. Bellridge Dr.
2244 – noise complaint, Lake Villa Dr.

There were four traffic stops on this week’s log, none on the freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 17:

0332 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty
0608 – assist other dept., Carmell St.

Monday, May 18:

1024 – mental subject, W. Columbia Ave.
2014 – civil matter, N. Liberty St.

Tuesday, May 19:

0131 – hospice death, N. Liberty St.
1106 – civil matter, W. Columbia Ave.
2240 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.

Wednesday, May 20:

1814 – neighbor trouble, Wexford Ave.
1856 – traffic offense, W. Columbia Ave.
1903 – private property/property damage accident, Harbour Pointe Dr.

2053 – domestic, Carmell St.

Thursday, May 21:

0109 – assist other dept., Haggerty/I-94
0939 – traffic stop, High St.
0941 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.
1125 – traffic stop, Tuscan Manor
1131 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1232 – property damage accident, Main St. / E. Huron River Dr.

1414 – traffic stop, Main St.
1556 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1623 – unattended death, Brain St.
1749 – civil matter, Wexford Ave.
2157 – traffic stop, N. Liberty/Fifth St.
2329 – traffic stop, Main St./Third St.

Friday, May 22:

0434 – traffic stop, Five Points
0543 – assist other dept., S. Woodbury
1242 – assist citizen, N. Liberty St.
1534 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, May 23:

1449 – misc. complaint, South St.
1911 – welfare check, Main St.
2124 – disorderly, N. Liberty St.
2222 – traffic stop, Denton Rd./Main St.

There were ten traffic stops on this week’s dispatch log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, May 17:

0033 – mental health call, Willow/Elwell
0049 – noise complaint, Kozma/Sumpter
0907 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Willow Rd.
1053 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1633 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Martinsville

1642 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Martinsville
2015 – suspicious circumstances, Rustic Ln.

Monday, May 18:

0030 – suspicious circumstances, 8700 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
0229 – suspicious circumstances, Willis Ct. / Martinsville Rd.
1047 – animal complaint, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1144 – follow-up investigation, 51000 bl. Arkona
2049 – 911 hang up, 40000 bl. Willow Rd.
2130 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Ray Ln.
2152 – welfare check, 46000 bl. Reed Ave.

Tuesday, May 19:

0114 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
0828 – prisoner check, Huron Twp. PD
1132 – civil matter, 46000 bl. Reed Ave.
1225 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
1651 – welfare check, Edgewood Dr.
1717 – suspicious circumstances, 40000 bl. Bemis
2158 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood
2237 – welfare check, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Wednesday, May 20:

0613 – fire dept. assist, Carleton West Rd./Willow
0724 – suspicious person, Rustic Ln.
0958 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1012 – assist other agency, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.
1224 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1416 – 911 hang up, Stonecrest Dr.
1509 – welfare check, 27000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1635 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.
1708 – welfare check, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1710 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1756 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1956 – family trouble, Rustic Ln.

2042 – suspicious circumstances, Judd Rd. / Martinsville Rd.

2133 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln.
2153 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Thursday, May 21:

0018 – warrant arrest, Textile Rd./Rawsonville
0309 – family trouble, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
0409 – fire dept. assist, Carriage Ln.
1050 – welfare check, 22000 bl. Clark Rd.
1158 – 911 hang up, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
1247 – animal complaint, Pecan St.
1256 – found property, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
1421 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1443 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1557 – 911 hang up, Carriage Ln.

1717 – suspicious circumstances, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

1725 – follow-up investigation, 44000 bl. Harris
1727 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
1842 – 911 hang up, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1858 – welfare check, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.
1904 – welfare check, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.
2024 – suspicious circumstances, Timberlane Dr.
2314 – alarm, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.

Friday, May 22:

0052 – noise complaint, Rustic Ln.
0307 – 911 hang up, Edgewood Dr.
1034 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1105 – 911 hang up, 42000 bl. Willow Rd.
1128 – suspicious circumstances, 49000 bl. Collyer Ct.

1419 – suspicious circumstances, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

1451 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.
1546 – 911 hang up, Carriage Ln.
1559 – 911 hang up, Ohio St.
1631 – neighbor dispute, Country Club Blvd.
1721 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.
1756 – prisoner check, Huron Twp. PD
1959 – welfare check, Carriage Ln.

2004 – noise complaint, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.
2145 – reckless driver, Oakville Waltz Rd./Clark
2207 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Wear Rd.
2237 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz/Clark

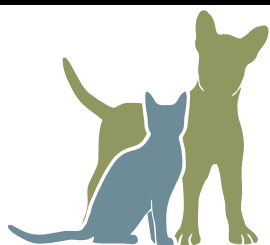
Saturday, May 23:

0800 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0936 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1059 – suspicious circumstances, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1314 – neighbor dispute, Country Club Blvd.
1643 – fire dept. assist, Greenmeadow Dr.

1812 – suspicious circumstances, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

1948 – animal bite, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.
2047 – reckless driver, Martinsville/Willis
2103 – suspicious perso, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2333 – suspicious circumstances, 51000 bl. Wear
Also on this week’s log are 52 patrol checks, 16 traffic stops, and five miscellaneous details.

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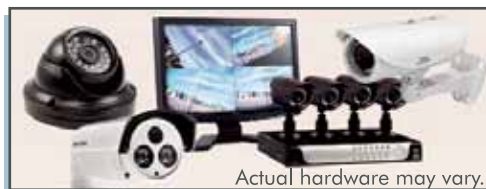
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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Over the week end the hanging of the pictures of Belleville High School graduates began on the light poles along main Street to honor the students who will have a delayed graduation ceremony. The city of Belleville approved the project, the Belleville Yacht Club paid for it, and Davenport Brothers Construction volunteered to use its equipment to put them up.

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12828 MARTINSVILLE, VAN BUREN
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Remodeled Kitchen, Hardwood Floors, Family Room, Covered Deck, Michigan Riverstone Fireplace, 90+ Three Zone Furnace and Central Air, Hot Tub and Newer Roof \$239,900

BOOMING WITH ROOM



48024 BEMIS, VAN BUREN TWP
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13285 EDGE DALE, VAN BUREN
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5 ACRES-3,000+ S F-BASEMENT



47037 HULL, VAN BUREN
CUSTOM BUILT 3,000+ Square Foot 4 Bedroom 3 1/2 Bath Home w First Floor Master, Family Room, Fireplace, Sunroom. Finished Basement, Second Garage This Property provides Unlimited Fun plus Deck on Five Landscaped Acres. \$400,000

DUPLEX OR SINGLE FAMILY



10106 WILLIS, WILLIS
HUGE HOME in the Village of Willis. Residential Zoning and used as a Duplex. 2 Kitchens, 2 Baths, 2 Living Rooms, and 5 Bedrooms. Basement, 90+ Furnace, 2 Car Detached Garage, Covered Porch and Large Lot. \$172,900

4,224 SQUARE FEET



23560 SUMPTER, SUMPTER TWP
RESIDENTIAL OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY. Possible Residential, Day Care, Group Home, Apartments or Your Ideas Large front covered porch. Fire System. 10 Bedrooms, 2 Apartment Kitchens, 5 Bathrooms. \$225,000

PRIME LOCATION



41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN
PRIME LOCATION. Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits - 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. This Property could be the key to a larger development parcel. \$135,000

LARGE BRICK RANCH



41577 MCBRIDE, VAN BUREN
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19 AC BREST ROAD TAYLOR \$550,000

MORTON TAYLOR 1.8 ACRES \$25,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEARS \$189,900
SAVAGE 1 ACRE SUMPTER TWP \$45,000
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000
24053 BOHN 3.3 ACRES SUMPTER \$67,000

WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$45,000
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000
VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000
GRANT ROMULUS 1.8 ACRES LT IN \$65,000
HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000
16265 DIX SOUTHGATE 1.6 AC \$155,000

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HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 ACRES \$50,000
HURON TWP VAC CLARK 1.12 ACRES \$60,000
HURON TWP VAC OTTER 2.94 ACRES \$60,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000
VACANT BALL ROMULUS .34 AC \$19,000

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